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flammes le venin qu'ils avoient eux-mêmes distillé, et qu'ils en retiroient encore souvent pour le mieux répandre.

Devenus vos propres censeurs, votre volonté bien réfléchie vous fera abjurer ce détestable moyen de nuire à la patrie, à ses chefs, à la raison, à la vérité.

L'histoire racontera votre utile coalition; nos neveux apprendront que les ouvriers imprimeurs, regardés jusqu'alors comme des instruments passifs et foibles, sont ceux qui ont le mieux connu, le mieux senti le prix, l'emploi, le véritable but de l'art qu'ils exercent.

Et nous, vieillards, dont vous recevez l'adhésion solennelle, pressés par l'âge d'arriver au dernier terme de la vie; puisqu'il est un lieu (n'en doutons point) où les ames vertueuses se retrouvent, nous irons les premiers rendre compte à l'immortel Franklin de ce qu'ont produit les semences de vertu, de travaux, de patriotisme dont il prit le germe dans le même état où vous le recueillez aujourd'hui avec tant de zèle, d'éclat et de succès.

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